

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

**September 20, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL:** Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Jack Harris, Douglas Hillensbeck, James Little, Angela Machin, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Felicia Lee

**VACANT SEAT:** East Baton Rouge Parish, East Feliciana Parish, St. Helena Parish

**ALSO, PRESENT:** ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

The Board announced the unexpected passing of ARBC Commissioner Kenneth "Wade" Welborn. Welborn represented East Baton Rouge Parish since May of 2013.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Under Item #7. Email from John Day to be entered into the record, as requested. The board discussed the erosion just north of PHP Road along the banks of the Comite River and in tributaries draining to the Comite. It is understood that EBR Parish submitted a hazard mitigation grant project for Port Hudson Pride Road stream bank stabilization for the continued enforcement of that roadway to protect it from erosion.
4. 2021-22 Audit Report: John McKowen, CPA: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies in the financial statements. McKowen mentioned there were no findings since he began performing ARBC audits in FY 2009-2010. In the opinion of the auditor the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Bailey to accept the audit report as presented.
5. Minutes  
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Hillensbeck to approve the August 2022 regular meeting minutes.
6. Financial Statements: Deferred to the October ARBC Regular Meeting.
7. Clearing and snagging of lower Comite River to assist Baton Rouge and City of Central with \$1.5M:  
Parker readdressed this matter with the Board to request a vote be taken. As discussed at the August 16, 2022 ARBC meeting, Councilman Moak had met with him, Rietschier and Bankston to request possible funding for clearing and snagging of the Comite River. Bankston again reminded the Board that ARBC can't embark on any new contracts due to HB 686/Act 490 and that CRDC tax dollars are restricted. Harris stated that ARBC's authority to assist at this time was taken away. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Bailey to defer this matter to the new ARBC Board of January 2023.
8. Executive Director Report
  - Rietschier updated the Board on the status of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
  - Stokka Brown, of CSRS, Presentation on Interactive Flood Inundation Map:  
The interactive map is soon to be released to the public for public input. Also, the Board unanimously agreed on motion by Bailey, second by Hoover, to pay an additional \$2,000 above the contract amount to Bob Jacobsen for work done on the Interactive Flood Inundation Map.
  - Upper Comite River Study:  
Presentation by Stokka Brown, of CSRS. The Board unanimously agreed on motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to defer the discussion of clearing and snagging of the upper Comite River to the new ARBC Board of January 2023. The question was raised as to whether new Board members will be named by January 2023 but this is unknown at this time.
  - Other: Rietschier announced 2 upcoming meetings:
    1. October 13, 2022, 10 am - Presentation and unveiling of High-Definition Flood Inundation Map. Amite River Basin. August 2016 Flood Event. Location: Center for River Studies. 100 Terrace Ave, Baton Rouge, La.
    2. October 26, 2022, 6-8 pm - Public Meeting for Introduction of High-Definition Flood Inundation Map.

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Location: Goodwood Library. 7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, La. (Note to minutes:  
Rescheduled meeting for November 10, 2022)

- 9. ARBC Legal Counsel: None
- 10. Old Business: None
- 11. New Business: None
- 12. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 10/24/22

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary